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EISENHOWER SPEECH

MOSCOW SOVIET NORTH AMERICAN SERVICE IN ENGLISH

STATINTL

(NIKOLAY ANDREYEV COMMENTARY)

(TEXT) However critical we may be of President Eisenhower at this moment for certain well known reasons, still he is President and the United States is a major power. We had every right to expect that once the President had recovered from the turmoil of the past few weeks, he would make a statement worthy of the leader of a great country. There was every reason to expect him to find enough courage to take a critical view of recent events and finally draw some realistic conclusions. Unfortunately, this did not happen.

On the whole, the President's speech was depressing. It was not the statement of the leader of a great power who feels the support of the nation behind him. It was much more the self-justification of a schoolboy who has misbehaved.

Consider what the President said about Washington's contradictory versions regarding the U-2 spy flight. The explanation was so confused and illogical that one can only wonder what prompted the President to give it. On one hand, as Washington now says, spying is perfectly legal, everybody does it, and there is nothing to be ashamed of. On the other hand, as the President said, he considered it necessary, at first, to make a covering statement about the incident. But what was the need for a covering statement? Why make a fool of oneself if aerial espionage is the ordinary thing, as the President asserted?

Mr. Eisenhower also spoke of a need to negotiate from positions of strength. We know that the United States is a great industrial power and is strong militarily, but this strength is the strength of the United States as a nation, strength rooted in the talents and industrious spirit of the people. It is something quite different from a foolhardy game of power politics and brinkmanship.

When the leader of a great power sets out for negotiations, feeling behind him the potential of the country he represents and realistically aware of the relation of forces on the world scene, it is one thing. If he tries to create positions of strength with fireworks and a psychological attack on his partners in the talks, it is quite another thing. Such methods are more typical of the mentally deranged than of statesmen. Yet these were the methods Washington used in attempting to build up positions of spiritual, moral, and material strength, to quote the President.

To this end, a U-2 plane was sent into Soviet airspace. New attempts, then unsuccessful, were made, to launch the Atlas rocket into super long-range flights, and the U.S. Air Force worked feverishly to put the unfinished spy satellite midas into orbit. This entire demonstration of strength, I emphasize was to come off on the eve of the Paris summit. All of this was planned, according to John Finney of the New York Times, so that the United States could enter the Summit conference on a psychological crest.

However, the circus trick ended the way all bad things end. Instead of positions

of spiritual strength, U.S. leaders found themselves in positions of spiritual weakness, isolated from the rest of the world and even from a large part of the United States, which, apparently, could not understand the motives behind such actions. Instead of positions of moral strength, U.S. leaders showed themselves in Paris to be advocates of the most amoral and inhuman ideas. They showed themselves to be men who scorn international law, cloak-and-dagger-diplomats who care nothing for human life.

It is clear from President Eisenhower's speech that the Central Intelligence Agency ruled out the possibility of survival of the spy plane pilot. This fact explains the initial lie about the purpose of the flights. Nor did the flashy display of military strength come off. The U-2 was shot down. The Atlas could not be launched on the appointed day and Midas could not be finished in time. These were the immediate results of a foolhardy policy.

But there has been another consequence. The actual spiritual, moral, and material strength of the U.S. public has been discredited by none others than the men in Washington. U.S. leaders have ignored their people's desire for peace; they have trampled on the people's hopes for the sake of selfish, adventurist moves.

Can anyone imagine a more irresponsible act than what the Pentagon and the General serving as President have committed? Who can believe now that President Eisenhower is honest or sincere when he talks peace? Honesty and sincerity are not gauged by the number of the high-flown adjectives attached to the words "peace" and "freedom". Actions speak louder than words. We know that the U.S. people desire constructive peace actions, honest negotiations. And friendship with the people of the USSR. But the men at the helm of government seem to be pulling in a different direction.

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